

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Stephen J. Benkovic, et al.)
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For: METHODS FOR NUCLEIC)
ACID MANIPULATION)
)
Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED)
)
Filed: March 31, 2004)
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Mail Stop Patent Application
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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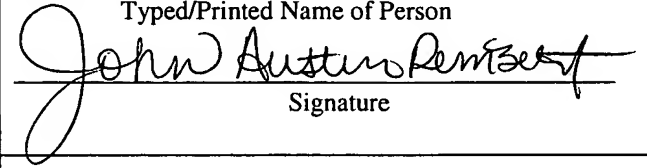
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks being on page 4 of this paper.